

## Key items & events

### Legislative update

The 2003-05 Governor's budget recommends \$20 million in bonding authority for the ConnectND project. On January 16th, both state government and the university system testified in favor of this legislation currently contained in [House Bill No. 1022](#). The university system testimony included a request that the Appropriations Committee also consider appropriating \$3.2 million in state general funds for the project, which would cover the University System's share of the projected 2003-05 costs. This would allow the State Board of Higher Education to discontinue the student fee currently in place to cover these costs.

### ConnectND the fruit of efforts by many

How many people are working on the ConnectND project? State government, higher education and MAXIMUS, the implementation partner, all have personnel working full time and others toiling away part time. State government has about 14 people assigned full time and higher education about two dozen full time. When including part-time contributors and subject matter experts, the total number of personnel representing general state government tallies about 135 and higher education about 110. This equates to 25 FTE for state government, 50 FTE in higher education, and 25 MAXIMUS FTE. In addition are the efforts by members of the Executive Steering Committee and other leaders within state government and the University System.

### Rollout planning

State government and the university system project teams continue to work on rollout planning. April 2003 has been set as the target month for implementing statewide (centralized) payroll for state government and many of the financial, human resource, and student administration system modules for MaSU and VCSU, the NDUS pilot campuses. *See related article: Payroll Implementations to begin this April.*

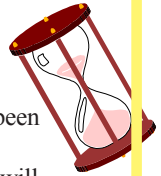
As these pilot implementations occur, the project teams will begin finalizing rollout schedules for other state government components and campus implementations.

## Timeline

### What is the current status of the ConnectND project?

In its January 31, 2003, report, the Project Oversight team reported:

- The overall project is on time and on budget, most open issues have been resolved;
- While there is a good probability that most of the project deliverables will meet dates - some schedule, resource or scope changes may be needed at this time;
- There are no scope issues at this time; and
- There are currently no risks impeding the project at this time.



### How is ConnectND being implemented?

Under the leadership of a State Executive Steering Committee (co-chaired by Donna Thigpen, President, Bismarck State College and Pam Sharp, Interim Director, Office of Management and Budget) and with the help of our implementation partner, MAXIMUS, the project is being implemented using a five-phased approach:

1. Initiation – Complete
2. Design – 99% complete
3. Development – Through 3/15/03
4. Migration – 10/7/02/02 to 5/15/03
5. Post Production – 10/7/02 to 8/29/03

### When will ConnectND be implemented?

Implementation began at the Mayville State University and Valley City State University pilot sites with the *Campus Community Planning, Recruiting, and Admissions* modules on Oct. 7, 2002. For those two institutions, some of the following system components will be live in April 2003: *Other Student Administration Modules, Financial System, and Human Resource Management System.*

The Office of Management and Budget, the state's pilot site, is also scheduled to begin running certain financial and human resource systems (including payroll) in April 2003. In addition, the Attorney General, Human Services, and Highway Patrol will begin running purchasing applications at that same time.

The entire statewide implementation for the remaining agencies and institutions is scheduled to be complete by the third quarter of 2004.

### Has end-user training been scheduled?

End-user training is to be scheduled using a just-in-time approach.

### February ConnectND IVN updates

- Thursday, Feb 6<sup>th</sup> (9-9:50 a.m.)
- Thursday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup> (9-9:50 a.m.)
- Everyone is invited to attend the IVN update sessions. Specific locations are indicated on the [calendar](#).

### Can't make IVN meeting dates?

The IVN sessions are captured and recorded through [webstreaming](#). Use the [video archive](#) to view a missed session at a later date.

### Words & acronyms

**ERP**—“Enterprise Resource Planning” System or “Enterprise Resource Package.” Essentially, it means an administrative software system that covers the entire enterprise – from students to employees to financial management. While our current administrative systems (commonly known as SAMIS or CICS) were developed long before “ERP” was even thought of, they are essentially our ERP today.

**MAXIMUS**—Founded in 1975, serves as the implementation partner on the Connect North Dakota Project, and will be responsible for developing an implementation and deployment plan that addresses the major business areas, key agency and campus participants and critical project completion dates.

**PeopleSoft**—Founded in the mid-1980s, this company builds applications on a client-server platform instead of using the traditional mainframe. This product should provide both the state and the university system with the ability to operate within a real-time environment on a system-wide basis.

**Web-streamed**—Recorded live and broadcast real-time via the Internet to those who cannot be at the event location.

### About ConnectND

#### What is ConnectND?

The CONNECT ND project is the implementation of *PeopleSoft's* ERP system that will replace North Dakota's current administrative computer systems. The ERP system will serve as the administrative systems for the entire enterprise – from students to employees to financial management.

#### Who is involved in ConnectND?

All of North Dakota State Government, including the North Dakota University System, is involved this project.

#### How is the ConnectND project organized?

The project has been organized by module (functional area) into three state groups (Financial, Human Resources Management System, and Technical) and four higher education groups (Financial, Human Resources Management System, Student Administration, and Technical).

### Communications Coordination

Bob Jansen is the North Dakota University System's common information services communications coordinator. Bob is working under the direction of the NDUS Chief Information Officer Grant Crawford and with the NDUS-CIS directors to develop and maintain a comprehensive communications strategy and plan for Higher Education Computer Network initiatives, the ConnectND project and other shared technologies. He will foster communication about information technology issues with university system personnel and the public, and work with campus public information officers and other professionals to build positive relations. Bob will also work with Jean Ostrom-Blonigen on various ConnectND communications projects, including this newsletter. Bob has previous experience as a reporter and editor with North Dakota newspapers, as communications coordinator in the North Dakota Governor's Office, and as public information director at Minot State University.

Bob can be reached by email at [bob.jansen@ndus.nodak.edu](mailto:bob.jansen@ndus.nodak.edu), or by phone at 231-5805.

### Both Data Centers gearing up

Data centers for long-term operation of the ConnectND applications will be established by the end of February at the Capitol in Bismarck for human resource and financial components, and at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks for student administration. Computer hardware has arrived at the two sites and the PeopleSoft environments are being set up with the help of consultants from Maximus.

Student administration for the Mayville State University and Valley City State University pilot sites will be moved to the higher education data center in April. Also in April, the state government data center, hosted by the Information Technology Division, will begin handling the state government payroll as well as some of the human resource and financial applications from Mayville and Valley City.

The data centers result from the work of project managers, technical team leaders, server administrators and database administrators, and will also involve roles addressing security, process-scheduling, network, help desk and applications development.

### Links mentioned

- **Chancellor Isaak letter:** [www.nodak.edu/connectnd/repository/design/Change\\_in\\_NDUS\\_Payroll\\_schedule\\_letter\\_1-03.pdf](http://www.nodak.edu/connectnd/repository/design/Change_in_NDUS_Payroll_schedule_letter_1-03.pdf)
- **Calendar:** [www.nodak.edu/connectnd/index.php?module=PostCalendar](http://www.nodak.edu/connectnd/index.php?module=PostCalendar)
- **House Bill 1022:** [http://www.state.nd.us/lr/assembly/58-2003/bill\\_actions/BA1022.html](http://www.state.nd.us/lr/assembly/58-2003/bill_actions/BA1022.html)
- **Video archive:** <http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/connectnd/modules.php?op=modload&name=Downloads&file=index>
- **Web-streamed:** <http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/connectnd/repository/development/CalendarEscalation.pdf>



More information, questions or comments: [www.nodak.edu/connectnd](http://www.nodak.edu/connectnd)  
Jean Ostrom-Blonigen, ConnectND Project Communications Manager  
701-231-9413; email [Jean.Ostrom-blonigen@ndsu.nodak.edu](mailto:Jean.Ostrom-blonigen@ndsu.nodak.edu)

#### Payroll Implementations to begin this April

One of the key benefits of the PeopleSoft system is that it ensures common setup and uniform definitions and usage across the enterprise, thus establishing a uniform base of information.

Another of the key benefits of PeopleSoft is the flexibility it provides in establishing business processes. One of the most significant examples of this flexibility was the decision for State Government to retain its already unified monthly payroll cycle, while the University System chose to unify its previously disjointed payroll system using a semi-monthly cycle with an eight-day lag.

State government and NDUS payroll teams are currently working on:

##### State Government (Central Payroll):

- Preparations are accelerating for the April implementation of statewide payroll, which will include more than 70 agencies and nearly 10,000 employees.
- The core HR project team is made up of staff from OMB, ND Public Employees Retirement System, and our implementation consultant, Maximus. In addition, more than 40 Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from state agencies will continue to play a key role in validating conversion data, final system testing, and assisting with further user training.
- Initially in April, state government PeopleSoft implementation will encompass all of the current central payroll system agencies. The Bank of North Dakota will be added during the summer.

##### NDUS:

- Chancellor Isaak has issued a letter to all North Dakota banks and credit unions explaining the University System's staggered implementation of its payroll schedule change. The Chancellor encourages the financial institutions to work with the approximately 6,500 NDUS employees impacted to ensure that the timing of any payments or automatic withdrawals coincides with the new payroll schedule.
- Project staff is currently working with campus payroll personnel to determine the best method of notifying banks and credit unions outside of North Dakota.
- Mayville State University and Valley City State University, the NDUS pilot sites, along with the NDUS Board Office will begin to move to the new payroll schedule in April. Other campuses will follow sometime during calendar 2004.

This payroll implementation will replace that run under the Higher Education Computer Network (HECN), placed into operation in 1980.

Comments and suggestions regarding this publication are welcome. We encourage questions about this newsletter or the project. To facilitate this process, you may ask a question electronically through the website [FAQ](#) (Frequently Asked Questions) section. It's also a place to view the questions others have asked and the responses of the project teams.